

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tom Cunningham on August 24, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 36 (amended) A mixture comprising:

ligand molecules of a single type independently bound to at least one solid phase support via first position on each ligand molecule, and

ligand molecules of the same type independently bound to the at least one solid phase support via at least one position, different than said first position, on the ligand molecules;

wherein said ligand molecules ~~[A]~~ when not bound to a solid phase support bind[s] to a target molecule ~~[B]~~.

Claim 37 (amended) A mixture comprising:

ligand molecules of a single type each independently bound to a first solid phase support via a first position on each ligand molecule, and

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ligand molecules of the same type each independently bound to a second solid phase support via at least one position, different than said first position, on the ligand molecules;

wherein said ligand molecules [A] when not bound to a solid phase support bind[s] to a target molecule [B].

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the instant claims define over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or make obvious a mixture comprising ligands that are each bound to solid phase supports where the ligands are bound to the support at different positions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-0824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -- Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on (571) 272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641
August 24, 2009